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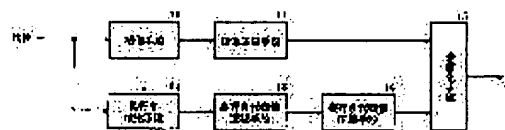
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(54) THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE ENCODING/DECODING SYSTEM

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To perform natural synthesis with computer graphics while realizing efficient information compression by providing the respective means of image pickup, image compression, detection, representative value selection, representative value compression and compression data multiplexing. SOLUTION: An image pickup means 10 picks up the image of an observation object and an image compression means 11 compresses image signals supplied from the image pickup means 10. To put it concretely, a color luminance map, an area map and a speed map are prepared from the picked-up images and the respective maps are compressed. A depth detection means 12 detects the depth of the observation object and prepares the depth map of a picture element unit corresponding to the picked-up images. In this case, the case of using input image signals supplied from the image pickup means 10 is present. A depth representative value selection means 13 thins out the

depth map obtained by the depth detection means 12. To put it concretely, sampling is performed corresponding to a predetermined pattern or the like. A depth representative value compression means 14 compresses a depth representative value obtained by the representative value selection means 13.



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